



Report August 2017

Danish Jewish Friendship

Thank you so much to Danish Jewish Friendship for your ongoing support of the Lone Soldier Center and Israel's lone soldiers. The Lone Soldier Center in memory of Michael Levin was founded by former lone soldiers to support lone soldiers serving today. Michael was an American-born lone soldier who fell fighting in Lebanon in 2006

The Lone Soldier Center was created by a group of his friends, former lone soldiers following-through on a dream of Michael's - to create a body to assist, feed, connect and care for lone soldiers in the IDF. Today, with your help, we are making his dream a reality; the LSC provides lone soldiers with meals, support, advice, housing and the family and community they are missing.

There are currently 6,400 lone soldiers serving in the IDF, from 52 countries around the world. The Center's staff and hundreds of volunteers work very hard to build this family and provide for many of the basic off-base needs of lone soldiers. We do this to ensure they will be included, supported and succeed in adjusting to life in Israel.

Below please find an update on our **Mechina Program, Maslul Mikey**, a first of its kind 2 month preparatory program for new immigrants and foreign volunteers.



This summer, the Center opened a 2 month mechina, run by former lone soldiers, to teach
drafting lone soldiers about Israel - the land, her history and her people, the IDF and provide



leadership training. 40 participants from all around the world are taking part in this unique experience run by the Center in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Defense and Mechinat Kol Ami.

Summary of Maslul Mikey Activities to Date

All participants have had intensive Hebrew language classes, with Hebrew teachers sent by the IDF. Basic communication skills, army slang, navigational terms, geography, outside influences on Hebrew and cultural elements have been included and emphasized in their lessons to date.

Program Components

Intensive Physical Training: Workouts in and out of the waves with Commando Training Course, Krav Maga Training sessions and more.



Hikes to get to know the Land of Israel- Maslul Mikey has hiked up from Latrun to the Mechina's Campus, hiked Wadi Kelt (famous valley and natural springs) in the Judean Hills, night-hike from Kibbutz Lamed'Heh up to the Gush Etzion area (in the footsteps of the rescue missions to Gush Etzion in 1948), and many more.



Navigation Training - Participants took part in 3 days of day and night navigation training and partner navigations in Israel's North. Pictured below studying before departing for the field.

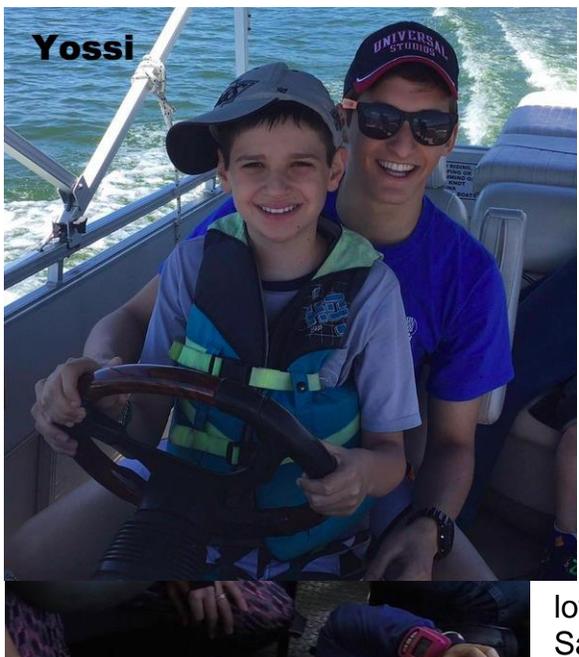


Education and Israeli Society - Maslul Mikey has visited the Israeli Knesset, the Supreme Court, the Israel Museum & the Palmach Museum and learned about army units, roles available in the IDF in combat, combat support and non-combat roles.

Participants also spent time at the Center, meeting with volunteer advisors, who were themselves officers and lone soldiers, learned about housing options, their rights and more. Pictured above, at our Jerusalem moadon and with Center volunteers at Ammunition Hill, learning about the history of one of the fiercest battles in the Six Day War.

Last week, the Mechina joined 90 active-duty lone soldiers for Shabbat dinner at the Jerusalem Center.

Meet a few of our Participants!



Brian, originally from San Diego, was always looking for his unique way to contribute to the world. Through enlisting for the IDF, Brian feels that he can truly make an impact on his people and land.

Brian's family is very supportive of his decision to make Aliyah, and while of course being away from home is hard, Brian was surprised by how similar Israel has been to San Diego geographically with beaches, mountains, and challenging hikes.

Brian is really enjoying the Mechina- he appreciates the opportunity to learn from those who have successfully made this transition before as well as improving his conversational Hebrew. So far, Brian is loving Israel and loving the mechina, and would like to eventually draft into Sayeret Maglan, a Special Forces unit that specializes in operating behind enemy lines using advanced technologies and weaponry.



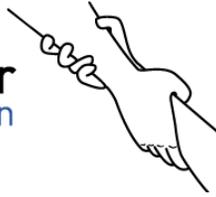
Shana, originally from Belgium, has been living in France for the last 7 years. She has a degree in International Trade from Lycee Albert Camus in Nimes. Shana was involved with Hashomer Hatzair while living in Belgium and was inspired to join the IDF so that she could give her all to the country she loves.

"The Mechina feels like a big extended family, so I don't miss my parents as much as if I had gone straight to the army. I am also lucky to have such a supportive family back home. I definitely understand a lot more Hebrew than I did before the mechina. The Ulpan and our madrichim helped take my Hebrew skills to the next level by speaking to us constantly in Hebrew."

Shana would like to serve in either logistics, or as a medic in the IDF.

Yossi, from Bergenfield NJ has always been an active member in his community, by serving as an EMT in the

The Lone Soldier Center
in memory of Michael Levin



המרכז לחיילים בודדים
ע"ש מייקל לוין

Teaneck Ambulance Corps, volunteering with Yachad, working at camp HASC and being a youth group leader at his Shul in NJ.

Yossi is excited to be in Israel and feels strongly in his desire to give back to Israel. Prior to starting Maslul Mikey, Yossi came in to the Lone Soldier Center to volunteer and help out in any way needed.

Through the Mechina, Yossi has formed strong bonds with friends he is excited to live with and serve with. He gained new skills and self-confidence in his abilities to serve in a leadership role and hopes to serve as a commander or officer one day in a combat unit. Yossi would like to draft into "Chetz," a unit of religious paratroopers.